

one-half of the front side 18 of the data card 17 exposed. The magnetic stripe 20 is located on the back side 19 of the data card 17 (see FIG. 5). In this configuration, the data card 17 is ready to pass through the magnetic reader for verification and activation of the encoded data and PIN 39.--

REMARKS

The present application was filed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 251 as a reissue application of U.S. Patent No. 5,842,629 filed on August 9, 1996 and granted on December 1, 1998. Claims 1-4 and 16-17 are pending in the application.

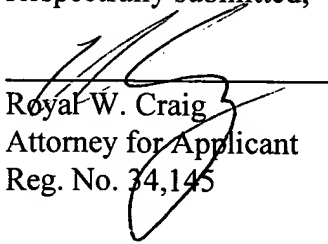
Further consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the amendment filed November 13, 1997 during prosecution of the original '629 patent under 35 USC 132 stating that the amendment introduced new matter not supported by the original disclosure. According to the Examiner, the application as filed does not support the added statement that the "VMP can be manufactured in the configuration of FIG. 4 without the bottom perforated portion first existing." Applicant maintains that this is a statement of inherent fact, a truth that does not add any new structure at all to the disclosure, but which was merely intended to clarify the scope of the claims. Nevertheless, applicant herein amends the specification to remove the statement, thereby acceding to the Examiner's view.

* * * * *

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this reissue application is now in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A: REDLINE SPECIFICATION

Changes to column 4, first full paragraph (lines 5-16), as amended once by the present reissue application and a second time on July 6, 2001:

FIG. 4 shows the front side 31 of the VMP 30, length 13, width 33, with the bottom 25 perforated area removed, diecut hanger hole 26, perforated top 23, right side 24, with one-half of the front side 18 of the data card 17 exposed. The magnetic stripe 20 is located on the back side 19 of the data card 17 (see FIG. 5). In this configuration, the data card 17 is ready to pass through the magnetic reader for verification and activation of the encoded data and PIN 39. [In an alternate embodiment of the invention, the VMP 30 is manufactured in this configuration without the bottom 25 perforated portion exposing the magnetic stripe 20 to further expedite point of purchase processing while protecting the integrity of the PIN 39.]

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